GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1660
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Foreigners in Voter List
Dwivedi Shri Harish

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of citizens of Pakistan and Bangladesh have got their names registered in the voters list of various States in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to delete their names from the voters list?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P.P.CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): As per law, only an Indian citizen is eligible to be registered as voter in India. Further, the Election Commission has informed that it is not in the knowledge of the Commission that the names of a large number of Pakistan and Bangladesh citizens have been registered in the electoral rolls of various States in the country. Though few such cases were reported by the Chief Electoral Officers of Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and West Bengal in the past but no such case has come to notice of the Commission during 2016-2017. Whenever such cases are detected in the States/Union territories, the Electoral Registration Officer in the concerned State takes suitable action to get the names of such persons deleted from the electoral rolls and confiscate the Electoral Photo Identity Cards, if issued to them.

(c): The Election Commission has informed that guidelines for Electoral Registration Officers about determination of citizenship of doubtful applicants for inclusion of names in the Electoral Rolls have been issued to all Chief Electoral Officers. The Electoral Registration Officers were, inter-alia, directed that before deletion of name of any person whose citizenship is suspected, a meaningful and purposive opportunity must be given to the affected person and he must be informed of the reasons for which suspicion has arisen in regard to his status as a citizen of India so that he may be able to show that the basis for such suspicion is ill-founded.